

What is M-PAC?

M-PAC is Maryland's Parent Advisory Council, a statewide group of approximately 150 parents and advocates appointed by State Superintendent of Schools Nancy S. Grasmick in the fall of 2003. The Council will advise Dr. Grasmick and the State Board of Education on parent involvement issues ranging from policy to implementation.

What is the overall mission of M-PAC?

Achievement Matters Most: Maryland's Plan for Every Student is the State Department of Education's comprehensive vision for education, organized around five goals. **Goal 5 is "Parents will be involved in education."** M-PAC will assist the State Department of Education in meeting the objectives of Goal 5, which are:

- School systems and schools will communicate more frequently and clearly with families and communities.
- Schools will help parents and legal guardians enhance their parenting skills and will share with them activities to promote academic success.
- All school systems will adopt a family involvement policy aligned with the state's.
- Schools will help parents and legal guardians improve school and student performance.

M-PAC is charged with generating a series of recommendations on how the objectives of Goal 5 can be met. The Council's scope includes state, local, and school policies and implementation strategies. M-PAC will oversee the work of three subcommittees: Education Policy, Nontraditional Communication, and Parent Involvement.

The Council will begin its work by reviewing results of an exploratory survey about parent involvement.

How is M-PAC organized?

M-PAC is modeled after Maryland's nationally recognized **Visionary Panel for Better Schools** and is chaired by Esther Parker, Maryland PTA president. M-PAC consists of the main Council and three subcommittees. A member of the main Council chairs each subcommittee.

The subcommittees will focus on:

- Education policy;
- Communication and partnership through nontraditional channels such as community and faith-based groups; and
- Parent/family involvement and its impact on student achievement.

Each subcommittee will provide the main Council with regular progress reports from subcommittee chairs to the main Council.

Each subcommittee will conduct meetings, research and analyses, and/or obtain input from outside experts in areas of concern to it.

Each subcommittee will provide the main Council with a written analysis and recommendations based on its area of expertise and issues reviewed.

How were members chosen to serve?

In order to ensure that M-PAC truly represents all Maryland's parent constituencies, membership nominations were solicited from a broad range of groups and organizations that work with families. Nominations were then evaluated and members were chosen to serve on the main Council and/or subcommittees based on a variety of factors, including area of expertise, region, and past experience. Members are expected to serve for two years.

How can the general public participate in M-PAC?

There are **several** ways that the public can participate in M-PAC, such as:

- Attend any of the M-PAC Main Council or subcommittee meetings. All meeting dates, locations, times, and minutes are posted on the Web at www.marylandpublicschools.org. You may also call 1-888-246-0016 for details. The public is welcome to observe all meetings.
- Share input during regularly scheduled public comment periods during all M-PAC Main Council meetings. Public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person.
- Share input in writing by sending an e-mail to M-PAC@msde.state.md.us or by mail to M-PAC, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD, 21201.



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Maryland's Parent Advisory Council